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*To ensure access to high-quality,
patient-centered, cost-effective
healthcare to Los Angeles County
residents through direct services at
DHS facilities and through
collaboration with community and
university partners.*



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January 20, 2015

The Honorable Board of Supervisors
County of Los Angeles
383 Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration
500 West Temple Street
Los Angeles, California 90012

Dear Supervisors:

**DELEGATE AUTHORITY TO ACCEPT GRANT AWARD FROM BLUE
SHIELD OF CALIFORNIA FOUNDATION AND APPROVAL TO AMEND AN
AGREEMENT WITH THE NATIONAL HEALTH FOUNDATION
(ALL SUPERVISORIAL DISTRICTS)
(3 VOTES)**

SUBJECT

Delegate authority to: 1) accept a grant award from Blue Shield of California Foundation; and 2) amend an Agreement with National Health Foundation for fiscal intermediary and project management services to add a Statement of Work related to the grant, extend the Agreement term and increase the maximum obligation to provide fiscal intermediary and project management services for the grant award.


IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT THE BOARD:

1. Delegate authority to the Director of Health Services, (Director), or his designee, to accept and sign a grant agreement with Blue Shield of California Foundation (BSCF) for \$240,000 for a period of twelve months, to help the transformation of the delivery of specialty care across the Department of Health Services (DHS), via the DHS Specialty Care Improvement Initiative.
2. Delegate authority to the Director, or his designee, to amend Agreement H-705379 with the National Health Foundation (NHF), to add a Statement of Work for the provision of fiscal intermediary and project management services related to the BSCF grant, extend the Agreement term through June 30, 2016 and increase the maximum obligation of the Agreement by an amount not to

ADOPTED

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

14 January 20, 2015


PATRICK OGAWA
ACTING EXECUTIVE OFFICER

exceed \$240,000.

3. Delegate authority to the Director, or his designee, to execute future amendments to the NHF Agreement to: a) revise or incorporate provisions consistent with all applicable State and/or federal law and regulations, County Ordinances and Board policy; b) make adjustments in project tasks and deliverables, program budget categories, and other project scope adjustments, as needed; and c) extend the term of the Agreement for a period not to exceed twelve months with no change to the maximum obligation in the event additional time is needed to complete the project and close out grant reporting.

PURPOSE/JUSTIFICATION OF RECOMMENDED ACTION

Background

The Board initially approved acceptance of a \$500,000 grant from BSCF on March 27, 2013, for a one year period to fund facilitation, development, and implementation of clinical guidelines and co-management strategies (clinical content) for the innovative web-based electronic referral and consultation management system known as eConsult. At that time, the Board also delegated authority to DHS to enter into the NHF Agreement to act as the fiscal intermediary and project manager for the grant-funded project to ensure proper administration of the grant funds during the life of the project. Additional authority was delegated to DHS to amend both Agreements to extend the term. Subsequently, the Board approved extension of the NHF Agreement to accommodate fiscal intermediary services for an additional BSCF grant and conclude reporting on the initial grant.

DHS is now building on the achievements of the initial BSCF grant, which was key to the development and deployment of eConsult and of convening clinical champions who are primary care and specialty care providers in the DHS and Community Partner (CP) system. These champions developed essential content and the infrastructure for the eConsult system, as well as the Specialty Care Improvement Initiative. This includes referral and discharge guidelines that are consistent with community resources and practices. The BSCF grant enabled DHS to have the resources needed to support physicians and consultants to come together and develop the clinical guidelines needed to manage referrals; including the development of a single set of medical protocols for a series of disease conditions so that patients can be more efficiently given specialty care.

New BSCF Grant and NHF Agreement

DHS recently applied for a grant from BSCF for continuing to build on the foundation set by the first BSCF grant. DHS was notified that it was awarded a \$240,000 grant on December 12, 2014, and will use funding for NHF to serve as fiscal intermediary for the new grant. The scope of services provided will include: 1) cementing achievements supported by the prior BSCF grant: which include training DHS Staff in SPC workgroup facilitation/moderation, project management, leadership development and 8-10 forums/workgroups for stakeholders, half of which will allow them to work on projects with a specific focus, and the other 4-6 meetings which will allow stakeholders to collaborate on larger scale issues, including specialty care improvements, and internalizing DHS vision and priorities, 2) developing accurate and actionable dashboards for specialty care delivery, 3) better integrating and coordinating care across California's largest county health system, 4) and implementing new specialty care innovations. The first and second recommendations will enable DHS to accept a grant award from BSCF and amend the NHF Agreement.

The third recommendation will provide DHS with the flexibility to make necessary changes to the NHF Agreement in a timely fashion and allow for amendments to extend the term of the Agreement

in order to complete the projects and close out the grants.

Implementation of Strategic Plan Goals

The recommended actions support Goal 1, Operational Effectiveness/Fiscal Sustainability; and Goal 3, Integrated Services Delivery of the County's Strategic Plan.

FISCAL IMPACT/FINANCING

Funding is included in DHS' FY 2014-15 Final Budget.

FACTS AND PROVISIONS/LEGAL REQUIREMENTS

BSCF Grant for Specialty Care Improvement and Transformation

The NHF Agreement commenced on June 8, 2012 for one year, and under delegated authority, the Agreement was extended to December 7, 2014. Since inception of the NHF Agreement, the physicians and consultants have made significant progress in developing the clinical guidelines necessary for eConsult implementation. County Counsel will review and approve the NHF extension amendment prior to execution.

BSCF Grant

County Counsel will review and approve the grant agreement from BSCF, as well as the NHF extension amendment prior to execution.

CONTRACTING PROCESS

The existing Agreement with NHF will be subsequently amended to include similar services for the new grant.

IMPACT ON CURRENT SERVICES (OR PROJECTS)

Approval of the recommended actions will enable DHS to take appropriate actions to accept a new grant and further amend the NHF Agreement in a timely manner to allow DHS to obtain fiscal intermediary and project management services for the new grant project.

The Honorable Board of Supervisors

1/20/2015

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Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Mitchell Katz". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Mitchell H. Katz, M.D.

Director

MHK:kh

c: Chief Executive Office
County Counsel
Executive Office, Board of Supervisors